

Better World Builders is a residential and commercial contractor that specializes in the analysis and correction of energy loss. Our mission is to create stewardship and sustainable energy solutions in the buildings where we live and work.

We believe that when a building is properly maintained and energy efficient, it can be enjoyed now and for future generations. We have completed more than 200 private sector energy audits and 280 Weatherization inspections for Community Action Agencies. In the private sector, we have completed 60 energy retrofits to residential homes and commercial properties. Energy savings varied from 15% to 65%, with an average energy savings of 26%.

Each home and business owner had their own motivations to invest in energy efficiency for their property. These factors ranged from “I want to do the right thing for the environment” to “my daughter’s room is always cold.” Most of these people finally took action because they had a comprehensive plan of action from a certified professional (BWB) and they could leverage a utility rebate and or finance the energy retrofit with a Michigan Saves loan.

Just from the work of Better World Builders, our clients have received:

- A combined annual savings of \$54,000/year: Or \$810,000 over a 15 year lifetime savings
- Are consuming 162 less Mwh of electricity: Or 2,430 Mwh over a 15 yr lifetime
- Are consuming 30,800 less CCF of natural gas: Or nearly a half million less CCF over 15 yrs.

Better World Builders is proud to be part of the solution and contributing to the success of PA 295. We are asking Michigan legislators to consider placing a stronger emphasis on PA 295 and double the goals to a 2% level.

To achieve these goals, we recommend building on the success of the Utility Rebate Optimization programs. This program provides rebates and incentives to their customers to consider Energy Assessments and high-efficiency installations. We suggest incorporating a second level and offering these two options:

1. Energy Star Level Retrofits – Helps homeowners make what they have more efficient.
2. Deep Energy Retrofits – More than doubles the wall insulation, foundations, attics, and incorporates incentives to improve indoor air quality.

In these cases we work with a public program known as Michigan Saves which helps to put energy efficiency in reach of many people. Without loans from Michigan Saves, or other such private financial institutions, many of our clients would be unable to afford the retrofits their home might need. We believe this resource needs to be made more available with:

1. More competitive interest rates
2. Giving the opportunity to buy down interest rates like points on a mortgage’
3. Increase the borrowing limit to \$35,000 and lower the rates for more energy efficient measures or deep energy retrofits.

Those of us at Better World Builders are pleased to remain committed to energy efficiency and environmental conservation. We'd like to extend many thanks to those of you that contribute to building a better world.